

WATER UTILITIES

Water and Sewer Commissioners

2013 Annual Report

The Board of Commissioners is an elective office responsible for managing and overseeing the operation of both the water and sewer departments. Current board members include Mr. Robert Courage, Chairman, Mr. Dale White, Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Mike Putnam, who simultaneously serves as a member of the Milford Board of Selectmen. Mr. David Boucher is the Water Utilities Director. The Commission's goal has been, and continues to be, to provide quality service at reasonable cost to our rate payers.

Our search for an additional ground water source to augment our present supply continues. Over the past three years, two separate sites were located and tested for water quality and pumping yield. Both had potential and would have served our needs, however, one location was cost prohibitive with many additional restrictions requested by the land owners. The other site is located adjacent to an area that is in close proximity to commercial and industrial facilities. The commission felt that there was risk of eventual ground water contamination even though there was no evidence of any at present. This weighed heavy on the Commission's decision not to further consider this site.

Several major projects were addressed during the year in the Water Department and at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. These included water main replacements, electrical and instrumentation upgrades in both departments. Funds were withdrawn from the Water and Sewer Capital Reserve accounts for these projects.

A 10% water rate increase became effective on January 1, 2014. For an average residential customer this increase will amount to approximately \$30.00 per year. Increasing costs in general operating expenses was the reason for this rate increase. Our last rate increase was in 2010.

The Commission **supports** one warrant article for consideration at the March 11, 2014 Town Meeting:

- the Water Department's repairing and resurfacing the interior section of the 500,000 pre-stress concrete water storage tank located adjacent to our industrial area in the west end of town, which was constructed in 1959.

The commission encourages responsible water conservation efforts by Milford residents. Remember to periodically check faucets and plumbing to correct water leaks promptly. A special "thank you" is extended to the Water Utilities staff members for their dedicated service throughout 2013.

The Commissioners meet regularly on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. at the Water Utilities Department, 564 Nashua Street, on a two-week basis. Meetings are always open to the public. Agendas and meeting minutes may be viewed at www.milford.nh.gov, Water Utilities Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Courage, Chairman
Dale A. White, Vice-Chairman
Michael E. Putnam, Member

Money Saving Reminder to Milford Water Customers

Consider the benefits of hiring a plumber to install a second, outside meter for irrigation purposes. Such a "bypass" meter will save you money because you will not be charged for the sewer portion for using water to improve your lawn or fill your pool. Homeowners who plan ahead and make such an investment in their plumbing system will prevent an unusual "spike" on their quarterly water/sewer bill and avoid requesting the Board of Commissioners grant an abatement on a one-time approval basis.